The five ongoing projects of gauge conversion falling partly/fully in the State of Assam are:—

(i) Kathakhal-Bairabhi

(ii) Haibargaon-Mairabari and Senchoa Junction-Silghat Town of Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers

(iii) Lumding-Silchar, Silchar-Jiribam and extension from Badarpur to Baraigram

(iv) New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon including linked branch lines

(v) Rangia-Murkongselek alongwith linked fingers

(b) and (c) Out of the above projects in Assam New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon is likely to be completed during 10th Plan. The other projects will be completed in the coming years subject to availability of resources.

Developmental Projects

1918. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue collection during the last two years zone-wise;

(b) whether development works are undertaken commensurating with the income generated in the zones; and

(c) if not, how priority for developmental projects is selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The zone wise Gross Earnings of Indian Railways

during the last two years are as appended below:

(Figures in crore of Rs.)

Zones	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)
Central	7196.17	4362.08
Eastern	4087.60	1850.69
East Central	@	2988.79
East Coast	@	2996.06
Northern	7315.71	5002.76
North Central	@	3218.05
North Eastern	1339.33	937.76
North-East Frontier	962.21	1113.56
North Western	@	1360.67
Southern	2852.12	2424.62
South Central	4030.76	3702.47
South Eastern	7906.91	2700.08
South East Central	@	2725.01
South Western	@	1133.34
Western	5418.40	3812.56
West Central	@	2461.25
Metro	38.52	42.42
TOTAL	41147.73	42842.17

@ These new zones were operationalised w.e.f. 1.10. 2002/ 1.4.2003. The separate Accounts compilation for these zones was, however, started w.e.f. 1.4.2003 only.

(b) and (c) Railway Projects undertaken on the Railways are need based and dependent on requirement of traffic and various considerations.

Filling of backlog in reserved vacancies

1919. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed figure of backlogs in all groups of Railway Service in respect of reserved vacancies for Scheduled Tribes;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up the vacancies for STs including the backlogs immediately; and

(c) by when the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The backlog vacancies (including the carried forward reservation) of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in recruitment categories as on 31.3.2004 on Indian Railways are as under:—

Group	No. of backlog vacancies of STs
'A'	Nil
'B'	Nil
'C'	2044
'D'	2689
TOTAL	4733

(b) and (c) In pursuance of Railway Budget 2004-2005 Speech (para 83-84), instructions for launching of Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) to fill up the backlog vacancies of Scheduled Tribes (STs) existing as on in Group 'C and Group 'D' in a time bound manner i.e. by have since been issued to all the Zonal Railways/Production Units.